

Listing of Claims:

1 – 3 (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) A method of securing in abutment two tubular metal members, comprising the steps of forming at least two first holes in one wall of each of the metal members, acting through the first holes so formed to burst second holes, respective to each of the first holes, in the opposite walls of the metal members to form outwardly-extending collars, screw threading the collar in one of the metal members, engaging the collars of the other of the metal members in the first hole of one of the metal members, and engaging threaded fasteners through respective ones of the aligned first and second holes in the metal members to engage the screw threads in the collar of the one of the metal members to clamp the metal members together.

5 – 8 (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 4, wherein the step of threading the collar comprises the step of threading the outermost second hole.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 4, further comprising the steps of aligning the tubular members in abutment such that the collar in ~~the member a~~ first of the two tubular members is received in the first hole in the second ~~member~~ of the two

tubular members and the collar in the second member is threaded to receive the threaded fastener.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 4, wherein the step of securing in abutment two tubular members comprises securing in abutment two rectangular tubular metal members ~~are rectangular~~.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 4, wherein the step of engaging a threaded fastener through respective ones of the aligned first and second holes in the metal members comprises the step of engaging a bolt through respective ones of the aligned first and second holes in the metal members.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 4, wherein the step of forming at least two first holes comprises punching or drilling the at least two first holes.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 13, ~~wherein~~ further comprising the step of arranging the tubular metal members to have longitudinal axes extending at mutually right angles.